

BIR Sunrise

BIR Sunrise is a publication for BIR students and is produced by the BIR Journalism Club. Views and opinions expressed are those of the students, not those of BIR Training Center.

Streaming Workshops Debut at BIR

By Ali Reza Amiri

Recently, BIR Sunrise interviewed BIR English program head Randy Hardwick to learn more about Streaming Workshops.

Q: What are streaming workshops all about?

A: Streaming workshops give students hands-on experience and an opportunity to use English with a vocational purpose.

Q: What workshops are going on now?

A: We already have four workshops in the following areas: Business English, Medical English, Computers,

and Journalism. About 20 students are in each of the workshops. Business English is the most popular program so far. This workshop helps you to use your English skills in a business setting. Because we are a commercial school, we try to understand the needs of students as customers. We believe student input is very important.

Q: What benefit will students get and why?

A: The workshops give students a rich opportunity to cement learning in English. Language skills are like playing basketball: If you don't throw the ball, you won't learn



Journalism

Journalism Club, a Streaming Workshop, meets on Tuesday evenings at the Devon Campus. About 20 BIR students are Journalism Club reporters and create this newsletter. Students receive a certificate after successfully completing three or more workshops in any one Stream. We seek new members who wish to enhance our publication.

how to play. We offer practical ways to help students learn English.

Economic Recession in Today's World

By Syed Azam

Recession is a slowdown in economic activities, a business cycle contraction. The Gross Domestic Product of the country goes down, the rate of unemployed goes up, and future investment stops.

People are losing their houses, and they can't pay their bills.

Today, the government is helping banks and corporations with bailouts.

Automakers in Trouble

U.S. automakers, in my

opinion, should make electrical midsize cars that will be gas-efficient and help save the environment. These steps can create more jobs and offer better cars to the public.

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Books and BIR

By Ileana Druc



Here is an interview with BIR Devon Campus student Plamena Stoyanova:

What kind of books do you like? "I really enjoy nonfiction and fiction."

What is the latest book you have read? "The Shack" by William P. Young.

What was the book about? "It was about grieving the loss of a loved one and overcoming one's anger through spiritual healing."

Did you like it? "Yes, because it was very enlightening."

What did you learn from it? "I learned that if one's faith is strong, one can endure most any trial in life."

Would you recommend it to a friend? "Yes, in the hopes that it would touch their hearts like it did mine."

A Little Attention Makes a Big Difference

By Chatlux Yenperng

Daniel Kovacs is a BIR teacher who has taught me the TOEFL class. He always motivates and encourages his students. He helps students improve pronunciation and uses activities to help his students learn in class.

I remember one time he

used a debate activity to make us speak and support our ideas.

After I was finished speaking, he asked me if I knew I used the word “like” about 20 times in my two minutes of speaking. I was surprised because I had never noticed it. He helps students correct their mistakes.



TOEFL instructor Daniel Kovacs teaches at BIR's Devon campus.

“The best advantage of teaching English is learning something from your students,” he said.

How Do You Relax to Stay Happy?

By Marzena Dybas

The best way to stay healthy and happy is to learn how to relax. Here are some ideas from BIR students I interviewed.

When it is nice outside, Ileana Druc from Romania likes to camp, hike, or go to the beach. She also likes to read novels. Her favorite is *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini.

Aneliya from Bulgaria on the other hand reads children's stories and fairy

“Whatever it is that you love, make time for it. Do what you love. Create art. Play guitar. Run. Travel. Write.”

tales. Right now she is reading *Narnia*. She also likes to take her dog for a walk, go to the lake, or take a trip

downtown. Ali Amiri from Pakistan loves to play cricket and video games with his friends. Watching a good movie makes him relax and calm.

Here are some tips to teach you how to relax. Exercise daily, read a book, or do what you love. Make time for your friends and family. Get enough sleep. Carry a small notebook with you to write down ideas to get them off your mind. As adults we need to learn how to relax to stay healthy.

Playing Cricket in the Windy City

By Uttam Savariya

Cricket is a very popular game in Chicago among Asian people. I interviewed BIR student Pragnesh from India who uses all his free time to play this game during the

summer. Ashok Patel has been playing cricket for 7 years. At the beginning it was very hard to find people in Chicago who were interested in the game and love to play it.

In winter, Chicago cricket players stay awake to watch

foreign games online and keep in touch.

In summary, playing cricket in Chicago is not that easy in all seasons. But these cricket players are trying to keep the sport alive.

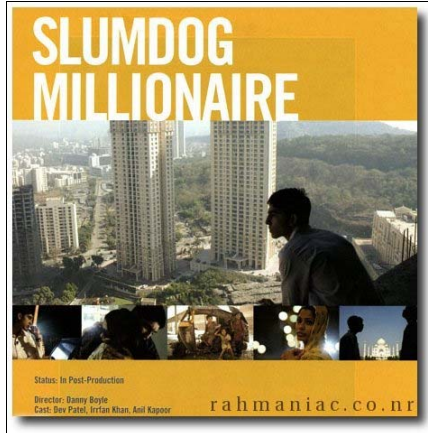
“Slum Dog Millionaire”: Review

By Ali Reza Amiri

“Slum Dog Millionaire” is about a kid named Jamal who was on a famous TV show and gave all the correct answers. Through a series of flashbacks, we learn about Jamal’s life in the slums with his older brother.

The story also includes a girl that Jamal believes he was meant to be with, the beauti-

ful Latika. He tries to rescue her in the movie.



Each question in the movie relates to a specific chapter in Jamal’s past, from dealing with gangs to a run in with a ruthless gangster. Jamal’s life experience prepared him to win on this game show. It’s as if he was fated to be on “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire.” I think the movie’s director Danny Boyle and co-director Loveleen Tandan did the best job in creating the movie, an adaptation of the book *Q&A* by Vikas Swarup.

Romanian Director at Chicago’s Trap Door Theatre

By Marian Petruta

Romanian Director Radu Alexandru Nica was invited by Chicago’s Trap Door Theatre to direct *Horses at the Window* by Matei Visniec. It is a story about war and the relations between women and



men. According to Nica, “Faith and social ethics are

necessary today. The obsession of finding yourself and your place in the world can be achieved through theatre by working with others.”

The play focuses on Romania during Communism. The run of the play ends May 3, and American actors will travel to Romania to perform for audiences there.

Immigration Scam: Too Good To Be True?

By Constantin Gavrilescu

Let’s say you came to America to get a better command of the English language and to eventually attend graduate school. Let’s also say you intend to

go back to your native country and contribute to your local economy after your studies. You should beware of online “immigration scams” that offer you full medical and dental insurance, immedi-

ate Green card sponsorship, or well-paying jobs.

These “scam recruiters” may attempt to convince you to pay a “deposit” and more and more fees. Just don’t fall into their trap!

See more student writing at the Newsletter (Sunrise) folder in Student Resources.

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“Traveling is one hobby that many people enjoy. It allows you to meet new people of different cultures. One of my friends, Jason, went to India for the first time and he was absolutely amazed by the diversity in India. He says life in India is much more interesting than anywhere else. You feel life there.”

—BIR Journalism Club
student Pragmesh Mistry

BIR Teachers Make You

Feel Comfortable

By Tungalag Battulga

BIR teachers are nice and make you feel comfortable. When I have a question, these teachers explain answers clearly.

I can think of one teacher, Tope Oddofin, who is open and actively talks with students. She teaches on Saturday and is also a lawyer. She has some magic: Students don't lose their attention, and they learn from her.

The Rite of Spring: Violence or Reality?

By Aneliya Aleksandrova

The famous ballet, *The Rite of Spring*, was composed by Igor Stravinsky, who was acclaimed by *The New York Times* in 1929 for his significance to modern music of the 20th Century.

The ballet centers on the story of a pagan spring ritual. When winter ends and spring begins, a young woman is chosen to propitiate the gods of spring. The sacrifice has a sacral purpose and was believed to be done for the good of all.

The combination of the music and the dance created a notorious premiere on 29 May 1913 in Paris. The audience revolted and caused a riot during the performance because the production was so unusual.

The Rite of Spring

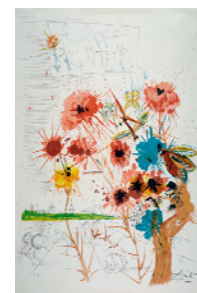
By Aneliya Aleksandrova

A father gives out his child
Into the valley of death,
To propitiate the gods of spring,
Who bring everything to life.

They let the rain begin,
When it is most needed.
And the sun shines,
Through the whole year.

They bear the utter responsibility
For the wars and diseases that
appear.
Thus, a sacrifice is the answer
To all prayers for better, new times.

The father must be proud of
The honor to serve to the gods of
spring,
With the blood of his own child.
And helplessly bring her to death.



Salvador Dali,
1966